

H.B. No. 6665 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REVIEW OF TRAFFIC STOP
COMPLAINTS AND THE COLLECTION OF TRAFFIC STOP INFORMATION WITH
RESPECT TO IMMIGRATION STATUS

Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is David Samuels. I'm the founder of the Community Party, a network of activists. I'm urging you to vote in favor of our bill, H.B. 6665. Last year four East Haven police officers were indicted by the Department of Justice for harassing and brutalizing Latinos. A subsequent investigative report by independent journalist Seth Freed Wessler of Colorlines.com found that the EHPD was continuing to collaborate with U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to deport undocumented immigrants, even after the DOJ investigation began. It would be naive of any of us to believe that East Haven is the only place in Connecticut where this type of abuse is happening. Undocumented immigrants are especially vulnerable to police harassment and violence, as they are unlikely to file a complaint due to fear of deportation. Undocumented immigrants are vital members of the community. They pay more in taxes than the wealthy and corporations. The brutal videotaped assault of Orlando Lopez-Soto by three Bridgeport police officers is further proof of the need for lawmakers to provide added layers of protection for the Latino/Puerto Rican community against police misconduct. Our bill, which has received support from committee Vice Chair Rep. Matthew Ritter, and Rep. Gary Holder-Winfield's TRUST Act legislation would serve as a deterrent against the type of hooliganism and systemic racism by the East Haven police which has made that town synonymous with racial profiling. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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